

## CALIFORNIA TRAINING BENEFITS PROGRAM

The California Training Benefits (CTB) Program allows eligible California Unemployment Insurance (UI) claimants who lack competitive job skills to receive their UI benefits while attending an approved training/retraining program. Claims for UI benefits are filed on-line or by telephone with the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

### Background

Individuals in approved CTB training/retraining need not:

- Look for work.
- Be available for work.
- Accept suitable work.
- Be disqualified for leaving work if working prevents them from completing training/retraining approved prior to leaving their most recent employment.

### Benefits Available

- Under the CTB program, the traditional role of UI changes, from that of temporary financial support while the claimant looks for work, to one of assisting the claimant in training/retraining in a demand occupation to enable a return to full employment.
- Training Extension (TE) claims provide additional UI benefits. An extension of CTB training benefits may be available beyond the regular UI claim while an individual is in approved training. To be eligible for extended training benefits, an individual must ask for information about CTB or apply for CTB training approval with EDD no later than receiving the 16th week of regular UI benefits. If the UI claim award is 16 weeks or less, the individual must ask for CTB training approval before receiving the last UI benefit check.
- When in effect, federal extended benefits replace the training extension benefits for CTB participants.
- The TE provides additional benefits up to a combined total amount of 52 weeks times the weekly benefit amount of the regular UI claim. The combined total amount includes the benefits received on the regular UI claim plus any benefits received on a federal or state extension, and any received on a new subsequent regular claim.

If an individual qualifies for a subsequent new UI claim in California or another state while receiving TE benefits, the new UI claim must be filed and benefits must be paid from the new claim, even if the new claim has a lower weekly benefit amount.

### Eligibility Criteria

To participate in the CTB program, an individual must be eligible for California UI benefits and be attending a training or retraining program approved by EDD.

An individual is potentially eligible for the CTB program if that person is approved for training/retraining by one of the following:

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA) federally funded programs
- Employment Training Panel (ETP) state funded programs
- Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) federally funded programs
- California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) training contracts

### Other Training

Individuals who secure training on their own behalf or who are not approved for training by WIA, ETP, TAA, or CalWORKs must meet all of the following criteria to be potentially eligible for the CTB program:

- Must be eligible for California UI benefits and be out of work for four or more continuous weeks, or be unlikely to return to their most recent work place due to a plant closure or substantial reduction in work force, or be unemployed due to a mental or physical disability preventing the use of existing job skills, or be unemployed due to technological changes in their occupations.

### AND

- Must be unemployed due to a lack of sufficient current demand for the individuals' skills within the local labor market area or, the individuals' occupation is seasonal and the individuals have no other skills in current demand;

**AND**

- Attend training in an occupation that is in demand in the individual's local labor market or be willing to relocate within California;

**AND**

- Requires the training or retraining to be specific job related training for individuals who are journey level union members;

**AND**

- Complete a training course within one year, including scheduled breaks and vacation breaks;

**AND**

- Attend training full-time as defined by the school and EDD, but not primarily to obtain a degree. EDD considers full-time to be not less than 20 hours per week or 12 units per semester or quarter;

**AND**

- Must reasonably be expected to complete the training or retraining successfully;

**AND**

- Participate in the program only if there have been three years or more since the beginning date of prior CTB participation.

### **Living Outside of California but Within the U.S.**

If you live in a state other than California and have a valid California UI claim, in order to be potentially eligible for the CTB program, the training/retraining must be approved by WIA or TAA.

### **Tuition, Books, and Fees**

CTB participants are not reimbursed costs by EDD for tuition, books, or other training-related expenses.

### **Approval Authority for CTB**

An EDD adjudication interviewer determines the applicant's eligibility for the CTB program and TE claims based upon legislation contained in Article 1.5 of the California Unemployment Insurance Code, Sections 1269 and 1271, respectively.

### **For More Information**

For further information or to apply for the CTB program, please contact EDD at:

- English ..... 1-800-300-5616
- Spanish ..... 1-800-326-8937
- Cantonese ..... 1-800-547-3506
- Mandarin ..... 1-866-303-0706
- Vietnamese ..... 1-800-547-2058
- TTY (non-voice) ..... 1-800-815-9387

For more information on other EDD programs and services, visit our Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov).

EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.